

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Yamagishi <i>et al.</i>
Appl. No.	:	10/807,528
Filed	:	March 23, 2004
For	:	PLASMA TREATMENT APPARATUS
Examiner	:	Rakesh Kumar Dhingra
Group Art Unit	:	1792

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants appreciate the finding of the pending claims to be allowable. In the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed February 27, 2009, Claim 8 was amended. As indicated in the Amendment, Applicants authorized this Examiner's Amendment in a telephonic interview on February 11, 2009. Accordingly, Applicants find the changes to be acceptable.

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner noted various features of independent Claims 1, 15, and 16. Applicants assume that, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, the Examiner has stated some, but not all of the reasons for allowance of the claims. Applicants wish to point out that the claims are patentable based on the combination of elements recited therein and not on any particular feature. Accordingly, to the extent that the Reasons for Allowance omit claim elements, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Reasons for Allowance. As a result, the statements made in the Reasons for Allowance do not necessarily relate to or completely set out the reasons for allowance of each and every

claim. For example, Applicants submit that the claims depending from independent Claims 1, 15, and 16 recite additional limitations distinguishing the art of record.

Although the present application may have included alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. To the extent any prior amendments or characterizations of the scope of any claim or referenced art could be construed as a disclaimer of any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, Applicants hereby rescind and retracts such disclaimer. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 9, 2009

By: Adeel Syed Akhtar
Adeel S. Akhtar
Registration No. 41,394
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

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